

Message Text

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70/46

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 EUR-12 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 TRSE-00

OMB-01 IO-10 AID-05 CIEP-01 /096 W

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R 031441Z JUNE 75

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4910

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MASERU 566

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 3)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, LT, CH, TW

SUBJECT: GOL FOREIGN MINISTER VISIT TO PRC - PRIME MINISTER'S

COMMENT

REF: MASERU 548

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: JUNE 3 EDITION OF SOUTH AFRICAN NEWSPAPER
"RAND DAILY MAIL" CARRIES INTERVIEW OF LESOTHO PRIME MINISTER
JONATHAN IN WHICH PM REPORTEDLY INDICATED OPTION OF ESTABLISHING
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PRC IS OPEN.

2. PERTINENT PART OF INTERVIEW READS AS FOLLOWS: "CHIEF JONATHAN
DENIED THAT THERE HAD BEEN ANY CABINET SPLIT OVER THE CURRENT
VISIT OF HIS FOREIGN MINISTER, MR. J.R.L. KOTSOKOANE, TO CHINA.
IT WAS PREMATURE, HE SAID, TO FORECAST THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLO-
MATIC RELATIONS WITH THE CHINESE, ALTHOUGH THIS COULD NOT BE RULED
OUT. MR. KOTSOKOANE HAD AUTHORITY TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION, BUT
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NOT TO TAKE ANY DECISIONS." JONATHAN REPORTEDLY WENT ON TO SAY GOL IS STILL OPPOSED TO COMMUNISM AS AN IDEOLOGY BUT THIS DID NOT MEAN LESOTHO COULD NOT SEEK GOOD RELATIONS WITH CHINA, AND THAT "WE WILL BE DOING SO WITHOUT CONCEDED OUR PRINCIPLES."

3. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT RADIO PEKING ON MAY 22 ANNOUNCED THAT KOTSOKOANE HAD REQUESTED 16 MILLION DOLLARS IN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE, HELP IN CONSTRUCTION OF AN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, OTHER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND HELP IN COMPLETING THE LIBERATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.
END UNCLASSIFIED.

4. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL: JONATHAN'S STATEMENT TO PRESS AND KOTSOKOANE'S REPORTED REQUEST FOR SUBSTANTIAL ASSISTANCE ARE STRONG INDICATIONS THAT GOL IS GIVING SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO RECOGNIZING PRC. FINAL DECISION PRESUMABLY WILL DEPEND TO LARGE EXTENT ON AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE PRC WILLING TO PROVIDE.
HAUGHT

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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